



Governor's Commission on Home and Community-Based Services

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December 23, 2002

The Honorable Frank O'Bannon
Governor
Indiana State House, Room 206
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Governor O'Bannon:

On behalf of the Governor's Commission on Home and Community-Based Services (Commission), it is my pleasure to present you with this first Interim Report.

This Interim Report and the work performed by the Commission since its appointment in July were accomplished in the spirit of the goal that you assigned to us "...to increase community service options so Hoosiers who are institutionalized or at risk of being institutionalized can live as independently as possible in their homes or in their communities." The Interim Report is intended to present you with a comprehensive background of relevant information, as well as provide you with a summary of all the work so far accomplished by the Commission through its five task forces and with the aid of the Consumer Advisory Committee. It includes sixteen very specific recommendations that are believed to be critical first steps in the mission of long-term care system reform that you envision; all of them are believed to be relatively simple and inexpensive to implement. Another nineteen recommendations are briefly referenced in the Interim Report and are scheduled for further analysis and evaluation for inclusion in the Commission's Final Report due to you in June 2003.

As you have said on many occasions, the task of building community capacity for the delivery of long-term care services in Indiana is not only challenging but complicated as well. There is no simple solution or magical "one size fits all" approach. For example, while many of the systemic problems are common to all consumer groups, individual needs and choices vary, therefore requiring the development of a multitude of system improvements and alternatives. In other words, real and lasting system change is dependent upon a thoughtful and comprehensive series of recommendations that directly resolve problems, one at a time, transcending both politics and long-standing historical barriers.

Your Administration, through the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, has already accomplished many objectives in improving the lives of Indiana's frail seniors, persons with physical, mental and developmental disabilities, and children and families who are at-risk. This good work continues, despite serious economic and budgetary constraints, in many forms, including the

development of Senior Care Teams, improvements in the Medicaid Waiver Programs, children's healthcare, and others.

Please be assured that the Commission is working closely with the Family and Social Services Administration and other state agencies to ensure that their roles substantially and positively contribute to the overall commitment that you have made to develop a real and lasting response to the consumer outcry for more and better long-term care service options in Indiana. It is in that spirit of cooperation and anticipation that we respectfully submit to you this Interim Report for immediate review and consideration.

Thank you, again, for convening this Commission and entrusting us with such an important assignment. We look forward to working with you and the Indiana General Assembly over the next several months to further develop and complete the many responsibilities that you have assigned us.

Sincerely,

Katherine Humphreys
Chairperson
Governor's Commission on Home and Community-Based Services

Enclosure